



PIPELINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

527 East Capitol Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62701

STEVE SMOCK RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS OF PIPELINE SAFETY SERVICE



Steve received a Resolution for his years of service with the ICC. Commissioner Ruth Kretschmer, who also retired December 31, 2002, presented the Resolution.

Steve Smock, who joined the Illinois Commerce Commission in the Pipeline Safety Section in May, 1977, retired from his position as Manager of the Pipeline Safety Program on December 31.

Terry Bridges, Pipeline Safety Analyst, also retired on December 31. Terry joined the ICC in September, 1977.

New Program Manager

Rex Evans was promoted to fill Steve Smock's position as Program Manager for Pipeline Safety. Rex has been a Pipeline Safety Inspector for the last 3 years and an employee of the Commission for 5 years.



Terry Bridges, Pipeline Safety Analyst for 19 years, retired along with Steve Smock.



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ICC Pipeline Safety Contacts**Program Manager**

Rex Evans 217-785-1165

Secretary

Nancy Standridge 217-785-1416

Inspectors

Darin Burk 217-785-1157

Charles Gribbins 217-785-1073

Donald Hankins 217-558-2662

Mark Kern 217-785-1166

Jim Watts 217-782-2339

Fax 217-524-5516**24 Hr. Emergency #****For Reporting Accidents** 217-782-5050**Dates to Remember****March 15, 2003**

- Annual Distribution and Transmission Reports Due
- Be sure to file copy with both U.S. DOT and ICC.

Your Annual Distribution Reports (and Transmission if necessary) are due to the Information Systems Manager in Washington, D.C. by March 15, 2003. Please remember that a copy should be sent to our office at the same time. Send a copy to the ICC office at the address below: (please note we no longer have a P.O. Box)

Illinois Commerce Commission
Attn: Nancy Standridge
4th Floor
527 East Capitol Avenue
Springfield, IL 62701

September 25 & 26, 2003

Small Operators Conference – Seasons at Rend Lake, Whittington, IL. If there are any topics that you would like for us to cover, please let your inspector know or call our office.

Municipal Gas Operators Emergency Association Meetings

District #1 – Belle Rive, Bluford, Cisne, Clay City, Crossville, Dahlgren, Enfield, Fairfield, Flora, Grayville, Geff, Louisville, McLeansboro, Norris City, Salem, Sims, Shawneetown, Wayne City, Edwards Co. Housing in Albion, White Co. Housing in Crossville, and Illinois Gas in Olney.

March 6, 2003
June 5, 2003
September 4, 2003
December 4, 2003

Please contact Mr. Mike Spitzner from Clay City Municipal Gas for more information.

District #3 has also scheduled their meetings for March, June, September, and December. Contact Glen Klett (Cairo Public Utilities) for more information at 618-734-3200. District 3 consists of Anna, Cairo,

Cobden, Creal Springs, Grand Tower, Jonesboro, Karnak, Pittsburg, Tamms, Thebes, Vienna, Alexander Co. Housing, Franklin Co. Housing, Johnson Co. Housing, Massac Co. Housing, Pope Co. Housing, Pulaski Co. Housing, Shelby Co. Housing, Union Co. Housing, and Williamson Co. Housing.

ICC 2003 Holiday Calendar

The ICC will observe 2003 holidays on the following dates:

Monday, January 20
Wednesday, February 12
Monday, February 17
Monday, May 26
Friday, July 4
Monday, September 1
Monday, October 13
Tuesday, November 11
Thursday, November 27
Friday, November 28
Thursday, December 25

JULIE is hosting their Excavator Safety Meetings for 2003. Please refer to their web site at :www.julie1call.com.

Their web site will give you all the information on when and where the meetings are being held, or call them at 815-741-5673.



Operator Qualification

Now that the Operator Qualification (OQ) Rule is in effect, all natural gas systems' operating personnel required to perform covered tasks should be qualified in accordance with a written plan. Compliance with the OQ Rule has sparked numerous questions from both natural gas system operators and the regulatory personnel. In an attempt to clarify the issues, the Department of Transportation Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) hosted a Public Workshop in San Antonio, Texas in January. The intent of the Workshop was to clarify compliance issues and create protocols for inspections of Operator Qualification Plans. Rex Evans of the ICC OPS attended this Workshop. Although some issues were clarified, several questions remained. Public meetings have been scheduled by OPS in an attempt to resolve the issues.

The DOT OPS also scheduled a Transportation Safety Institute Operator Qualification Workshop in February designed to provide inspection training to Federal and State Regulatory Personnel. The proposed protocols were reviewed and discussed. Rex Evans and Darin Burk attended this training.

The ICC OPS will be developing inspection guidelines that will be used to verify compliance with the OQ Rule by natural gas system operators providing service in the State of Illinois.

Damage Prevention

Illinois Governor George Ryan signed into Law House Bill 2138 on July 27, 2001, revising the Illinois Underground Damage Prevention Act. The Commission's enforcement duties are required by the legislation to begin on July 1, 2002. Violations of the Act include failure to call JULIE for a locate, failure of utilities to mark facilities after being notified by JULIE and requesting an emergency locate when an emergency does not exist.

Under its enforcement duties, the Commission will be responsible for receiving reports of violations, determining if a violation of the Act occurred, and assessing fines with maximum penalties ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per violation. See the JULIE status report below.



ICC - JULIE Enforcement - Status Report

By: Bill Riley, Manager
JULIE Enforcement
Illinois Commerce Commission

Enforcement Statistics from July 1 - December 31, 2002

- 179 Incident Reports Submitted
- 66 Cases complete
 - ◆ 14 Warning letters sent
 - ◆ 36 Notices of Termination sent
 - ◆ 14 Complaints withdrawn
 - ◆ 2 Notices of Violation
 - Total penalties assessed—\$4,000
 - Total penalties collected—\$0

JULIE Enforcement—

- Of 179 Incidents, 147 reported by Utilities
 - ◆ 84 No valid JULIE ticket

- ◆ 54 Failure to exercise due care
- ◆ 2 Failure to immediately notify utility of damage
- ◆ 3 False emergency locate requests
- ◆ 1 Failure to provide proper support for facilities
- ◆ 1 Improper backfilling
- ◆ 2 No violation
- Of 179 reports, 32 submitted by excavators or home & business owners
 - ◆ 25 Failure to mark
 - ◆ 3 No violation
 - ◆ 2 No valid JULIE ticket
 - ◆ 1 Failure to mark properly
 - ◆ 1 Failure to exercise due care

Winter Hazards

Just a reminder:

While meter reading and system patrols are being performed be sure to watch for ice accumulations on regulators at service installations. Ice can cause blockages that prevent regulators from venting properly and possible diaphragm movement problems. This can result in possible gas outages or even an overpressure situation. If you observe these conditions affecting your system installations, take corrective action to clear the hazard and prevent the re-occurrence. Also be aware that falling ice or snow accumulations can also damage piping installations if not properly protected from the excess stress or weight.



METFIT (UPONOR) COMPRESSION COUPLINGS

We have received notification of what appears to be faulty 1/2-inch MetFit plastic pipe compression couplings. (They are designed like the old Ampfits couplings that are now manufactured by Uponor.) The problem was discovered when a company found the stainless steel bands that are pressed onto the ends of the fitting were breaking during installation and contacted the manufacturer.

It is our understanding these couplings are Mold Lot #S26 and delivered in October. Assembly Lot #'s include 98648, 96158 and 97660.

If you have any of these in stock, it is recommended you not use them unless you can verify from the manufacturer they were not part of the bad batch.

Any installed units that might belong to a bad batch should be promptly identified.

II. Advisory Bulletin (ADB-02-7)

To: Owners and Operators of Natural Gas Distribution Pipeline Systems

Subject: Notification of the Susceptibility to Premature Brittle-like Cracking of Older Plastic Pipe.

Advisory: In recent years, brittle-like cracking has been observed in some polyethylene pipes installed in gas service through the early 1980s. This brittle-like cracking (also known as slow crack growth) can substantially reduce the service life of polyethylene piping systems.

The susceptibility of some polyethylene pipes to brittle-like cracking is dependent on the resin, pipe processing, and service conditions. A number of studies have been conducted on

older polyethylene pipe. These studies have shown that some of these older polyethylene pipes are more susceptible to brittle-like cracking than current materials. These older polyethylene pipe materials include the following:

- Century Utility Products, Inc. products.
- Low-ductile inner wall "Aldyl A" piping manufactured by Dupont Company before 1973.
- Polyethylene gas pipe designated PE 3306. (As a result of poor performance this designation was removed from ASTM D-2513.)

The environmental, installation, and service conditions under which the piping is used are factors that could lead to premature brittle-like cracking of these older materials. These conditions include, but are not lim-

ited to:

- Inadequate support and backfill during installation
- Rock impingement
- Shear/bending stresses due to differential settlement resulting from factors such as:
 - Excavation in close proximity to polyethylene piping
 - Directional drilling in close proximity to polyethylene piping
 - Frost heave
- Bending stresses due to pipe installations with bends exceeding recommended practices
- Damaging squeeze-off practices

Service temperatures and service pressures also influence the service life of polyethylene piping. Piping installed in areas with higher ground temperatures or operated under higher operating pressures will have a shorter life.

Gas system operators may experience an increase in failure rates with a susceptible material. A susceptible material may have leak-free performance for a number of years before brittle-like cracks occur. An increase in the occurrence of leaks will typically be the first indication of a brittle-like cracking problem. It is the responsibility of each pipeline operator to monitor the performance of their gas system. RSPA issues the following recommendations to aid operators in identifying and managing brittle-like cracking problems in polyethylene piping involving taking appropriate action, including replacement, to mitigate any risks to public safety.

Because systems without known susceptible materials may also experience brittle-like cracking problems, RSPA recommends that all operators implement the following practices for all polyethylene piping systems:

1. Review system records to determine if any known susceptible materials have been installed in the system. Both engineering and purchasing records should be reviewed. Based on the available records, identify the location of the susceptible materials. More frequent inspection and leak surveys should be performed on systems that have exhibited brittle-like cracking failures of known susceptible materials.
2. Establish a process to identify brittle-like cracking failures. Identification of failure types and site installation conditions can yield valuable information that can be used in predicting the per-

formance of the system.

3. Use a consistent record format to collect data on system failures. The AGA Plastic Failure Report form (Appendix F of the AGA Plastic Pipe Manual) provides an example of a report for the collection of failure data.
4. Collect failure samples of polyethylene piping exhibiting brittle-like cracking. Evidence of brittle-like cracking may warrant laboratory testing. Although every failure may not warrant testing, collecting samples at the time of failure would provide the opportunity to conduct future testing should it be deemed necessary.
5. Whenever possible record the print line from any piping that has been involved in a failure. The print line information can be used to identify the resin, manufacturer and year of manufacture for plastic piping.
6. For systems where there is no record of the piping material, consider recording print line data when piping is excavated for other reasons. Recording the print line data can aid in establishing the type and extent of polyethylene piping used in the system.

We will be following up with all operators to make sure the RSPA recommendations are met.

Pipeline Security Issues

On September 6, 2002, the Federal Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) issued security guidance circulars to all operators. We have been asked if any information needs to be submitted to

the ICC regarding this issue. As of February, 2003, we do not require any information to be sent to our office. We expect some guidance from OPS in the near future and will relay this information as it becomes available. Should you have any questions, please contact our office.

Whistleblower Protection

The Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 provides for protection of an employee who provides information relating to any violation or alleged violation of any order, regulation, or standard under Chapter 601 of the code of Federal Regulations. Section 60129 establishes a process to protect pipeline employee whistle blowers who raise pipeline safety issues. Complaint procedures concerning these issues are handled by The Department of Labor.

New Pipeline Safety Act - Now Law

On Tuesday, December 17, 2002, President Bush signed the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002. This law contains several self-implementing requirements, that place certain obligations on pipeline operators whether the Office of Pipeline Safety issues additional regulations or not. This includes:

Public Education Programs:

Not later than **12 months** after the date of enactment of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002, each owner or operator of a gas or hazardous liquid pipeline facility shall review its existing public education program for effectiveness and modify the program as necessary. The completed program shall include activities to advise affected municipalities, school districts, businesses, and residents of pipeline facility locations. The completed program shall be submitted to the Secretary or, in the case of an intrastate pipeline facility operator, the appropriate State agency, and shall be periodically reviewed by the Secretary or, in the case of an intrastate pipeline facility operator, the appropriate State agency.

Operator Qualification Programs:

Notwithstanding any failure of the Secretary to prescribe standards and criteria as described in subsection (b), an operator of a pipeline facility shall develop and adopt a qualification program that complies with the requirement of subsection (b) (2)(B) and includes the elements described in subsection

(d) not later than **2 years** after the date of enactment of this section.

The ICC Pipeline Safety Program will be conducting OQ Program assessments in 2003.

Gas Pipeline Risk Assessment and Integrity Management Programs:

The regulations shall require an operator to conduct a risk analysis and adopt an integrity management program within a time period prescribed by the Secretary, ending not later than **24 months** after such date of enactment. Not later than **18 months** after such date of enactment, each operator of a gas pipeline facility shall begin a baseline integrity assessment described in paragraph (3).

In the absence of regulations addressing the elements of an integrity management program described in this subsection, the operator of a pipeline facility shall conduct a risk analysis and adopt and implement an integrity management program described in this subsection not later than **24 months** after the date of enactment of this subsection and shall complete the baseline integrity assessment described in this subsection not later than **10 years** after such date of enactment. At least 50 percent of such facilities shall be assessed not later than **5 years** after such date of enactment. The operator shall prioritize such facilities for assessment based on all risk factors, including any previously discovered defects or anomalies and any history of leaks, repairs, or failures. The operator shall ensure that assessments of facilities with the highest risks are given priority for comple-

tion and that such assessments will be completed not later than **5 years** after such date of enactment.

More to come on this subject.

National Pipeline Mapping System:

a. INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED- Not later than **6 months** after the date of enactment of this section, the operator of a pipeline facility (except distribution lines and gathering lines) shall provide to the Secretary of Transportation the following information with respect to the facility:

1. Geospatial data appropriate for use in the National Pipeline Mapping System or data in a format that can be readily converted to geospatial data.
 2. The name and address of the person with primary operational control to be identified as its operator for purposes of this chapter.
 3. A means for a member of the public to contact the operator for additional information about the pipeline facilities it operates.
- b. UPDATES- A person providing information under subsection (a) shall provide to the Secretary updates of the information to reflect changes in the pipeline facility owned or operated by the person and as otherwise required by the Secretary.

2003 Operator / Inspector Listing

Public Utilities

Alliant Energy – Gribbins
Ameren CIPS – Hankins
Ameren Union Electric - Hankins
Central Illinois Light Company - Evans
Consumers Gas - Gribbins
Illinois Gas Company- Kern
Illinois Power Company - Burk
IL Power Storage Fields - Burk
MidAmerican Energy—Evans
Mt. Carmel Public Util.—Hankins
North Shore Gas Company - Kern
Nicor Gas Company
 Aurora - Watts
 Central Region
 -Aurora - Gribbins
 -Glen Ellyn - Gribbins
 -Ottawa – Gribbins
 Metro Region
 -Bellwood - Watts
 -Crestwood - Watts
 -Glenview - Watts
 -Glenwood - Watts
 Northern Region
 -Crystal Lake - Gribbins
 -Dixon - Gribbins
 -Rockford - Gribbins
 Southern Region
 -Carthage - Gribbins
 -Joliet - Watts
 -Bloomington – Watts
 -Kankakee – Watts
 North Zone Transmission
 -Elk Grove – Watts
 South Zone Transmission
 -Joliet - Watts
Nicor Storage Fields
 -Ancona - Watts
 -Bloomington - Watts
 -Hudson - Watts
 -Lexington - Watts
 -Pecatonica - Gribbins
 -Pontiac - Watts
 Troy Grove - Gribbins

Peoples Energy - Kern
United Cities Gas - Watts

Municipal Systems

Aledo - Gribbins
 Anna - Hankins
 Auburn – Gribbins
 Belle Rive - Gribbins
 Bethany - Kern
 Bluford - Kern
 Bushnell - Gribbins
 Cairo - Hankins
 Casey - Kern
 Chester - Burk
 Cisne - Watts
 Clay City - Gribbins
 Cobden - Hankins
 Creal Springs - Hankins
 Crossville - Burk
 Dahlgren - Gribbins
 Divernon – Gribbins
 Dupo - Burk
 Edinburg - Kern
 Enfield - Burk
 Equality - Gribbins
 Fairfield - Kern
 Findlay - Kern
 Flat Rock - Burk
 Flora - Gribbins
 Franklin - Watts
 Geff - Watts
 Grand Tower – Hankins
 Grayville - Kern
 Greenup - Kern
 Jonesboro - Hankins
 Karnak - Hankins
 Louisville - Watts
 Marshall - Watts
 Martinsville - Watts
 McLeansboro - Gribbins
 Milford - Gribbins
 Morton - Gribbins
 Nashville - Kern
 New Boston - Gribbins
 Norris City - Gribbins
 Pawnee - Gribbins
 Pinckneyville - Kern
 Pittsburg - Hankins
 Pittsfield - Kern
 Pleasant Hill - Kern
 Rantoul - Watts
 Red Bud - Burk
 Riverton - Watts
 Roodhouse - Kern
 Rossville - Gribbins
 Salem - Evans
 Shawneetown - Evans
 Sims - Gribbins
 Stonington - Kern

Sullivan - Kern
 Tamms - Hankins
 Thebes - Hankins
 Toledo - Kern
 Vienna – Hankins
 Waterloo - Burk
 Waverly - Kern
 Wayne City - Kern
 Westville - Gribbins
 White Hall - Watts
 Winchester - Watts

Master Metered Systems

Alexander County Housing - Hankins
 Franklin County Housing - Hankins
 Greene County Housing - Kern
 Johnson County Housing - Hankins
 Massac County Housing - Watts
 Peoria Housing - Kern
 Pope County Housing - Burk
 Pulaski County Housing - Hankins
 Saline County Housing - Watts
 Shelby County Housing - Hankins
 Union County Housing - Hankins
 University of Illinois - Burk
 White County Housing - Burk
 Williamson County Housing - Hankins

Intrastate Transmission

Egyptian Storage, Ridgeway – Gribbins
 Elysium Energy - Burk
 Gallagher Drilling - Hankins
 Grayson Hill Farms - Gribbins
 Illinois Gas Transmission - Burk
 University of IL –IL Power / Natural Gas Pipeline - Burk
 Southern Illinois Power Coop. – Hankins

Direct Sales

Mississippi River Transmission - Burk
 Panhandle Eastern - Burk
 Vector Pipeline – Watts



Upcoming Audits

You will soon be audited on your 2002 records. Organization is the key to a smooth record audit. Ask yourself if you have reviewed all of your records and have all the required tasks been completed. Ask your inspector how you can improve on your record keeping.

Don't forget your Operations, Maintenance and Emergency plans also need to be reviewed annually for compliance.

WEB SITES

Are you looking for industry information? The following are just a few web sites that might be of interest to you.

<http://www.icc.state.il.us> - ICC Home Page

<http://www.pipelinepages.com/> - This website links to forms needed for annual reports, along with a small operators guide.

<http://ops.dot.gov> - Federal Office of Pipeline Safety

<http://www.julie1call.com/julie/> - JULIE



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Pipeline Safety – 4th Floor
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